

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07517 291653Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----005749 291702Z /47

O P 291552Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7448  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7517

EXDIS

FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: US; GR; OVIP (CHRISTOPHER, WARREN)  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CHRISTOPHER VISIT TO ATHENS

1. PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS WILL BE PERSONALLY OVERSEEING GREEK GOVERNMENT PLANNING IN ANTICIPATION OF YOUR VISIT IN OCTOBER. BECAUSE OF KARAMANLIS' SCHEDULE THAT MONTH HIS OFFICE WOULD PREFER THAT YOU COME TO ATHENS IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE RANGE OF DATES (OCTOBER 18-24) GIVEN TO US BY FOREIGN MINISTER RALLIS LAST WEEK. ALL SEEM ESPECIALLY SATISFIED THAT YOUR TRIP TO THIS AREA WOULD MEAN A VISIT TO ATHENS ONLY.

2. THE FOREGOING WAS CONVEYED TO ME EARLIER TODAY BY PETROS MOLYVIATIS, DIRECTOR OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC CABINET. MOLYVIATIS WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT KARAMANLIS SEES TANGIBLE BENEFITS RESULTING FROM YOUR VISIT AND APPARENTLY HAS INSTRUCTED THE BUREAUCRACY TO BRING FORWARD SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WHICH SOULD LEND THEMSELVES TO AGREEMENT BY THAT TIME. THESE AREAS, ACCORDING TO MOLYVIATIS, MIGHT WELL BE IN  
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THE SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL OR CULTURAL AREAS BUT HE INDICATED UNMISTAKABLY THAT THE GOG IS INTERESTED ALSO IN PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL DISPUTES WHICH ARE OF DIRECT INTEREST TO US BOTH AND BEAR IMPORTANTLY ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THIS IS NOT AT VARIANCE WITH ANYTHING RALLIS SAID LAST WEEK SO MUCH AS IT REFLECTS MORE THOROUGH CONSIDERATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT.

3. MOLYVIATIS, WHO OBVIOUSLY WAS ACTING WITH APPROVAL FROM THE PM, HAD ASKED ME TO COME BY HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS YOUR TRIP HERE, MATT NIMETZ' TO NICOSIA AND ANOTHER SUBJECT OF NO RELEVANCE TO HIS MESSAGE.

4. STILL ON YOUR VISIT, MOLYVIATIS ALLOWED THAT WHILE IT WOULD BE UNREALISTIC FOR EITHER SIDE TO EXPECT TO RESOLVE THE MORE CONTENTIOUS ASPECTS OF THE ISSUES ON WHICH WE DO NOT AGREE THERE IS MUCH TO BE SAID FOR RECORDING SOME PROMISE. NATURALLY, THAT HOPE WOULD CARRY MORE MEANING IF IT WERE TO CAP OFF SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS IN LESS CONTROVERSIAL AREAS. I AGREED, ADDING THAT WAS VERY MUCH THE WAY YOU WOULD BE SETTING YOUR OBJECTIVES AND ENVISIONING THE OUTCOME.

5. TURNING TO MATT NIMETZ' VISIT TO NICOSIA, MOLYVIATIS FIRST TOLD ME THAT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL IN NICOSIA HAD FOR THE PRESENT "DECIDED NOT TO DECIDE" TO GO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THAT ACTION, HE SAID SLYLY, WAS "NOT UNRELATED" TO KYPRIANOU'S CONVERSATIONS IN ATHENS WHICH WE HAD EARLIER GATHERED TO HAVE BEEN THE CASE. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, HE ADDED, ALSO REAFFIRMED ITS COMMITMENT TO THE MAKARIOU/DENKTASH PRINCIPLES. THERE HAD BEEN SOME WAFFLING WITHIN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GOC, HE SAID, MAINLY AS A RESULT OF DENUNCIATIONS BY LYSSARIDES BUT THAT ALL OF THE GOC IS "NOW BACK ON BOARD."

6. THIS LED MOLYVIATIS TO ASK WHAT I KNEW OF NIMETZ' BRIEF FOR HIS TRIP. ADMITTING THAT I WAS WITHOUT SPECIFIC INFORMATION PRESENTLY, I DESCRIBED ITS PURPOSE IN LINE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT, ADDING THAT I ASSUMED MATT WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE VAROSHA/FAMAGUSTA PROPOSALS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH MY CONVERSATION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER LAST WEEK. MOLYVIATIS THEN MADE THE SAME PITCH AS RALLIS, NAMELY THAT IF THE USG COULD WIN "IMPROVEMENT" OF THE DENKTASH PROPOSAL IT MIGHT WELL REENGAGE THE PARTIES INTO AN INTERCOMMUNAL DIALOGUE.

7. BEFORE LEAVING I PROMISED MOLYVIATIS I WOULD WORK WITH HIM AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO DEVELOP A MUTUALLY AGREED AGENDA FOR YOUR VISIT. I HOPE IT WILL SOON BE POSSIBLE TO GIVE THEM YOUR PREFERRED DATES AND OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING ON AGENDA.  
MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014